



# *The Women's Faculty Club Newsletter*

University of California, Berkeley

May 2013

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Some of you remember, but many of us could not, that in the late 1960's a merger of the Women's Faculty Club and the (then) Men's Faculty Club was proposed and voted on by both Clubs. During the '60s, both Clubs were losing members and were badly in need of major renovation and repair. (The Men's Club was also in debt; the Women's Club was not!)

Both clubs requested funding from Chancellor Heyns, who concluded that in the interest of economy, the clubs should consider merging. Funding for a new dining room between the two clubs (in the existing redwood grove) and for major repair was arranged through the generosity of Walter Haas. Many meetings were held by each Club individually, and by representatives from both. Two votes were held by the Women's Faculty Club, the final one rejecting the merger.

In next month's Newsletter I will describe in greater detail the dramatic events – I'm not kidding – surrounding those votes. In the end, the Haas money was divided between the two clubs; important structural and seismic improvements were made; the old porch was replaced by our existing veranda; and campus Deferred Maintenance financed new shingles and windows. In short, within those few post-proposed merger years, the WFC was restructured and renewed.

That was more than 40 years ago. There are, again, important issues of building repair and renewal that must be addressed to retain the architectural heritage of the building and the charm and grace of the facility for our members to enjoy. The Board of Directors is currently engaged in a careful study of these issues, and is developing a long-term plan that we hope will ensure the future integrity of the building, inside and out. As this plan develops, you will be fully informed of the Board's thinking. But next month – the back story of the merger that didn't happen.

Eleanor Swift  
President, Board of Directors

PS. The envisioned new dining room would have required the demolition of Senior Hall. When the bulldozer arrived, campus-related people formed a human chain around it and refused to let the demolition happen. When the merger was rejected, plans for the dining room were dropped

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Friday, May 3, 2013, 4-6 p.m.** – “Arts in the Afternoon” – **Guided Tour of John Galen Howard Exhibit – CED Library, Reception Follows – WFC Club Lounge**
- **Wednesday, May 15, 12:15 p.m.** – **Members Table – Co-Hosts Eleanor Swift and Alma Valencia**

## PROGRAM AND EVENTS

### Upcoming Events - Final in our “Arts in the Afternoon” series on John Galen Howard



*(John Galen Howard – 1923 Photograph)*

Join us on Friday, May 3, 4 p.m. for a guided tour of an exhibit of John Galen Howard’s work at the Environmental Design Library. Curator Miranda Hambro will lead us through the exhibit titled “John Galen Howard: Crafting Campus, Continuing Practice.” Howard was the founder of U. C. Berkeley’s School of Architecture, campus architect from 1901 – 1922, designer of many landmark buildings and, of course, architect of our own historic Club building.

The tour begins at 4:00 p.m. at the Library located at 210 Wurster Hall. A reception follows at 5 p.m. in the Club’s Stebbins Lounge. “Arts in the Afternoon” programs are complimentary and open to the campus community. Bring a friend!

### May Member’s Table

Come and enjoy stimulating conversation and great food at our next Member’s Table on Wednesday, May 15, 12:15 p.m. Board President Eleanor Swift and Board Recording Secretary Alma Valencia will co-host.



*(Professor Eleanor Swift)*

Board President Eleanor Swift joined the law faculty at Boalt Hall in 1979. Prior to that she had served as a law clerk to two federal judges and worked as a litigation associate in a large law firm. She teaches Civil Procedure and Evidence, and her academic writing has focused on evidence law. Eleanor has been instrumental in establishing live client law clinics at the law school, as well as the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice. For fun, she and her husband retreat to a cabin near Lake Tahoe and play with their dog Zoe.



*(Board Member Alma Valencia)*

Alma Valencia currently serves as the Recording Secretary for the Board and has done so since elected in 2011. She is committed “to supporting the Club’s inclusiveness for all - academics and professionals – while retaining its air of serenity in the midst of campus.”

Alma first came to campus as a freshman in 1970, graduating with an interdisciplinary major, Environmental Studies – Biology/Policy. After college she had a short-lived stint creating public service announcements for San Francisco’s KABL radio station. She then returned to Cal and began her professional career in the Campus Personnel office covering a breadth of HR disciplines. This led to a transfer to the Chancellor’s office to be part of a major reorganization of the academic life sciences at Cal. Alma worked closely with the Dean of Biological sciences and served as program director for administrative restructuring.

With the end of the first round of biosciences reorganization completed, she jumped at a

chance to align her career with her original college major and accepted the position of Associate Director for Environment, Health and Safety. There she oversees technology, finance and administration. (Bula Dean Maddison)

In her spare time she enjoys world educational travel and cultural experiences. She has a goal of eventually standing on every continent of the globe. She is also passionate about viticulture, vegetable gardens and huskies!

### Past Events

#### April “Arts in the Afternoon”



Thank you once again to Professor Davitt Moroney and the current members of the University Baroque Ensemble for a wonderful concert that was both informative and a delight.

One member of the audience remarked that he had recently heard one of the pieces – Vivaldi’s Concerto in A minor, op 3, no 8 played at London’s Wigmore Hall and that the student rendition was actually superior! Professor Moroney inspires his students and that allows their own joy and enthusiasm for the music to radiate to the audience as well. We look forward to their return in future years. (Linda Vida-Sunnen)

#### April Open House

Club members, department members, visiting scholars and post-docs all gathered for our annual Open House on the last day of April. Over 75 members and guests enjoyed wine and jam tastings, appetizers, hotel tours, good conversation and a thought provoking discussion of food production and distribution. (Jeri Foushee)

Thank you to long-time Club member Professor Emerita Sally Fairfax for her presentation. Fairfax and others recently published *California Cuisine and Just Food* which explores challenges facing the Bay Area’s diverse alternative food proponents.

### HISTORICAL NOTES

In honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> opening of the Club we are featuring a series of short biographies of our “leading ladies” – the women whose foresight and vision first established the Club. This month and next will be on the woman most frequently associated with the Club’s founding – Lucy Ward Stebbins.



Stebbins was a native Californian, born in San Francisco in 1880, and the daughter of prominent Unitarian minister Horatio Stebbins. Horatio Stebbins was the successor in ministry to Thomas Starr King and was called to the San Francisco Unitarian Church from Massachusetts in 1864 after King’s death. King died at 39 and was thought to have worn himself out with his tireless work and speeches aimed at keeping California in the Union. Stebbins held the pulpit for some 30 years and only returned to Massachusetts when his own ill health forced him to do so. He served as Trustee of the University of California for 26 years and was also President of the Trustees of the College of California.

Stebbins grew up in San Francisco in a household that reflected the “tastes and habits of a cultured New England background” with the openness of the West coast. She was educated in San Francisco schools and attended U.C. Berkeley before transferring to Radcliffe College and receiving her A.B. degree. (To be continued)

## **DINING ROOM NEWS –MAY 2013**



- **May Dining Room Special – Any “Ventana” wine – by the glass or by the bottle – Half Price**
- **“Tasting Tuesdays” - Join us for lunch on each Tuesday in May – We continue a tradition of small tastings each week. Tastings change each week.**
- **Thank you program for individual members – Receive a complimentary coupon for the Salad Buffet after every eight luncheons within either six month period:  
January – June or July - December**
- **Find your (name) within the body of the newsletter and win a \$20 gift certificate**